

Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority – Flood Storage Facility Fish Analysis
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Date Issued: June 21, 2010

Proposals Due: July 12, 2010 prior to 9:00 a.m.

Lewis County, Fiscal Agent for the Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority (Flood Authority), is seeking a qualified consulting firm or team to provide professional services for completing a study to determine the potential impacts of upstream storage on fish. Tasks include review of existing fish use patterns, review, validation, and synthesis of existing hydrology and hydraulics, evaluation of expected changes to the system (including water quality and fish habitat), analysis of potential changes to fish usage and populations, and identification of appropriate study methods to address uncertainty. The study is the next step in examining the impacts on fish of proposed water storage structures on the headwaters of the Chehalis River and the South Fork Chehalis River.

Background:

For more than 70 years, the local communities of the Chehalis River Basin have worked with a variety of public agencies to find solutions to the chronic flooding problems throughout the basin. However, residents of the watershed today remain fearful that lack of flood protection leaves them vulnerable to the next storm event. Recent flood events occurred in 1996, 2007, and 2009.

The Flood Authority was formed by an Interlocal Agreement among eleven jurisdictions in the Chehalis River basin following the 2007 flood. One of the purposes of the Flood Authority is to develop and implement flood hazard mitigation measures throughout the basin. One proposal that is currently being studied is to build two water retention facilities, one in the headwaters of the Chehalis River and one on the South Fork Chehalis River.

The Lewis County Public Utility District (PUD) is leading the studies of water retention facilities and the PUD has retained EES Consulting to conduct a preliminary assessment of potential water retention facility options. EES has used a hydrology model of the Chehalis River basin developed by Northwest Hydraulic Consultants (**nhc**) under a contract with the Lewis County Prosecutors Office. EES has proposed two water retention structures. See: *Chehalis River Water Retention Facilities Potential Study, February 2009*.

In a second phase of analysis, EES's subconsultants Shannon & Wilson, Inc. conducted geologic and geotechnical studies of the proposed dam sites and dams. They produced *Geologic Reconnaissance Study, Proposed Chehalis River and South Fork Dam Sites, Lewis County, Washington, October 27, 2009* and *Reconnaissance-Level Geotechnical Report, Proposed Chehalis River and South Fork Dam Sites, Lewis County, Washington, October 28, 2009*.

Currently EES Consulting is undertaking a more refined look at the engineering and cost/benefit analysis of the two dams. See: *Chehalis River Water Retention Project, Phase IIB Feasibility Studies, Scope of Work and Estimated Budgets, November 13, 2009*.

EES Consulting also performed an initial evaluation of fish and aquatic resource issues associated with the proposed dams. See: *Chehalis River Water Retention Structures Scoping Document and Proposed Studies*. This document was intended to provide a preliminary scope of aquatic resource issues, data gaps, and identify potential studies to address key aquatic resource uncertainties.

The Flood Authority has determined that the next step in the study of the storage facilities is a high level analysis to determine potential impacts of the proposed structures on fish.

In the interests of soliciting quality, informed proposals, electronic copies of all reports listed above will be provided to all proposers. Proposers are also encouraged to review reports linked to on the following sites:

www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org/technical/technical.htm

www.chehalisbasinpartnership.org/salmon_habitat_restoration/salmon_habitat_restoration.htm

www.lewiscountywa.gov/chehalis-river-basin-flood-authority

www.ecy.wa.gov/pubs/sorted.html

wdfw.wa.gov/mapping/salmonscape/

Objectives:

The goal of the Fish Study is to determine the impacts of two proposed upstream storage structures on native fish in the basin. The Fish Study is intended to examine the impacts of dams built for flood storage only as well as dams built for flood storage with hydropower and stream flow augmentation. The study is also intended to examine impacts of the structures both with and without fish passage.

Preliminary engineering and design of structures built for flood storage with hydropower and stream flow augmentation is available in the EES reports described above. EES will also provide preliminary design of structures built for flood storage only.

Given time constraints, the selected firm will need to rely on existing data to the extent possible, and not all data gaps need to be filled to meet the objectives. Proposals should state which data gaps need to be filled to meet the objectives of the study. The study should consider impacts in the basin from the headwaters of the Chehalis to the Porter gauge (RM 33). Tidal influence impacts the river below this point.

Tasks:

Applicants should provide detail of how they would accomplish these tasks:

1. Review existing fish use patterns in the river system, focusing on native fish.
2. Review, validate, and synthesize the results of the existing hydrology and hydraulics to determine impacts to channel morphology, water quality, and fish habitat.
3. Summarize the expected physical and chemical changes to the system, including, but not limited to changes in:
 - change in sediment regime,
 - large woody material,
 - water quality, and
 - habitat connectivity.

4. Using the results of 1-3, analyze the potential changes to fish usage and populations. Identify any potential impacts to fish, including areas of uncertainty. For example, analysis should include but not be limited to:
 - impact to spawning and rearing habitat due to inundation,
 - habitat alteration due to reservoir fluctuations and ramping,
 - habitat limitations due to the existing temperature and dissolved oxygen regime,
 - potential impacts of flow augmentation, such as spawning and rearing habitat alteration and timing(e.g., how augmentation could impact the separation between spring and fall Chinook),
 - impacts to juvenile salmonid upstream movement,
 - interspecies interactions (competition/predation), and
 - existing habitat utilization and impacts of proposed project to ESA-listed green sturgeon.
5. Identify appropriate study methods to address areas of uncertainty identified in items 1-4.

Timeframe:

Work under this contract is to be completed no later than June 30, 2011. The work may be extended or modified at the discretion of the Flood Authority.

Format of Proposal and Requirements:

Letter of interest: Introduce yourself and the team and demonstrate your understanding of the nature of the project.

Approach/Methodology: Describe the approach and/or methodology that you will use to complete each of the tasks described above.

Budget: Include a detailed budget estimate by task. The final budget for the project will be determined as part of contracting.

Personnel: Identify and include brief resumes listing qualifications of key personnel who would be assigned to this work, and describe the anticipated roles of team members in the project. Specify the Principal in Charge and the Project Manager who will serve as the primary contact person. Provide a chart showing the organizational structure of the team.

Experience: Discuss your related experience based upon two to four relevant projects, including client and project information, with your responsibility in the projects, the challenges presented by each project, and the final results. Discuss experience with evaluating fish impacts and benefits; modeling water quality, instream flows, and channel morphology; and designing fish passage. Also discuss experience in working with public sector clients and tribal governments.

Client References: Please provide three references that are familiar with your ability to undertake and complete comparable work. Include contact names, titles, and telephone numbers.

Submittal Information and Proposal Schedule:

Preliminary Schedule (Subject to change)

RFP Issued June 21, 2010
Proposal submittal deadline July 12, 2010, 9:00 a.m.
Notify finalists or selected consultant July 19, 2010
Finalist interviews week of July 19, 2010
Final selection July 26, 2010
Contract scope and budget development late July – early August 2010
Lewis County executes contract for services August 9, 2010

Proposal Quantities, Due Date, Time, Location

Submit 1 original unbound copy, 1 electronic copy, and 10 comb-bound copies of the proposal, which should be a maximum of 25 single-sided 8.5" by 11" pages in 12 point font. Individual resumes are limited to a two (2) page summary and may be included as an appendix not counted in the proposal page limit. Full resumes should be available upon request. Proposals are due in the office of Lewis County Clerk of the Board of County Commissioners no later than 9:00 a.m. on July 12, 2010. Proposals submitted by any means other than mailing, courier or hand delivery will not be accepted. Proposals submitted after the deadline date and time will not be accepted.

Submittal address:

Clerk of the Board / Flood Authority Fish Study RFP
Lewis County Board of County Commissioners
351 NW North Street Room 209
Chehalis, WA 98532

Communications with the Authority and Lewis County

Any questions regarding the submittal process and/or aspects of the Request for Proposals may be made via e-mail to Bruce Mackey of ESA Adolfson at bmackey@esassoc.com.

Only e-mail communications will be accepted. All responses will be provided via e-mail. Questions and responses will be shared with all firms that provide an e-mail address to Mr. Mackey. No questions will be accepted after Thursday, July 8th at the 5:00 p.m. close of business.

The Request for Proposals and supporting documents are available for review on the Lewis County web site, www.lewiscountywa.gov, or at the Department of Community Development, 2025 NE Kresky Ave., Chehalis, WA, 98532 during regular business hours.

Minimum Qualifications

It is mandatory that the Bidder have:

- License to do business within the State of Washington.
- Insurance from an insurance carrier or carriers licensed to conduct business in the state of Washington and having a rating of A-, Class VII or better, in the most recently published edition of Best's Reports.
- Professional level knowledge and experience in fish biology, hydrology, water quality, geomorphology, and biometrics, modeling (for water quality, instream flow, and fish habitat), and fish passage design.
- Professional level experience working with federal, tribal, state and local organizations.
- Professional level experience in working within rigid timeframes and meeting deadlines.

Bidders who do not meet these minimum qualifications shall be deemed non-responsive and will not receive further consideration.

Evaluation process:

Review Process

A selection committee consisting of four (4) members appointed by the Flood Authority along with a member each from the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation, the Lewis County PUD, and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will review and rate proposals. This selection committee will recommend finalists for interviews or select a firm. If the selection committee decides interviews are necessary, the interviews will be conducting during the week of July 19 and selection of a firm will be made by July 26, 2010.

Evaluation Criteria

Consultants will be ranked based upon the qualifications and experience of the consultant team. Consultants will be evaluated on the following weighted criteria:

- Demonstrated expertise and experience in completing similar types of projects (20 points).
- Key personnel, experience and knowledge (15 points).
- Past performance and references (10 points).
- Success in working with public sector clients and tribal government (15 points).
- Approach, methodology, and budget (40 points).

The Flood Authority reaffirms its right to make any selection it deems prudent.

The successful individual, firm, or consultant team selected will perform a variety of duties as agreed upon in the final negotiated Scope of Work. The selected consultant and Lewis County, as fiscal agent for the Flood Authority, will finalize the contract terms and conditions. If Lewis County and the selected consultant are unable to agree on terms and conditions at this point, the selection committee may exercise its right to negotiate with other consultants.

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